

PEACE

9-28-08

Text: Galatians 5: ²² *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace,*

Purpose: We want to understand clearly the meaning and application of “peace.”

Introduction:

1. Peace Needs To Be Defined

1. The Source of “peace” - “*But the fruit of the Spirit*”

1) “*the fruit* – καρπο□” – is singular and that indicates the unity of these characteristics and all can be found in a true born again believer! The *fruit* refers to the *characteristics* of the Holy Spirit.

2) “*fruit*” – is the result of a personal relationship with the Triune Godhead. This fruit – *characteristics* are *love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control*. They are inexhaustible because they are the characteristics of the Holy Spirit who indwells every believer. These characteristics are pure because the Holy Spirit is pure and holy! 2 Corinthians 3: ¹⁸ *And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect^a the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.* ⁱ

3) “*of the Spirit* – του πνευματο□” is in the genitive case of possession. The *fruit – characteristics* “*of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control.*” ⁱⁱ all belong to the Holy Spirit.

4) “*Peace*” is based upon a personal relationship with God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

2. The Grammatical Study of the word “*peace* - ειρηνη.”

1) This is a noun, nominative, singular and feminine. The nominative case in the Greek is the case that normally refers the subject of a verb.ⁱⁱⁱ The subject of the verb in our passage is *peace* – a noun-- a noun is a word that represents a person, place, thing, or quality that can function as the subject or object of a verb. A noun is a word that stands for the name of something. ^{iv}

2) Definition:

a) a state of national tranquility; exemption from the rage and havoc of war.

b) peace between individuals for example harmony, concord.

c) security, safety, prosperity, felicity, (because peace and harmony make and keep things safe and prosperous).

d) of the Messiah’s peace; the way that leads to peace (salvation).

e) of Christianity, the tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ, and so fearing nothing from God and content with its earthly lot, of whatsoever sort that is; the blessed state of devout and upright men after death.^v

- f) *peace*,
 - a) harmony, tranquility; in certain contexts seen in the OT concept of the *Shalom*, *i.e.*, welfare, health (Mt 10:34; Mk 5:34; Jn 14:27; 16:33; 20:19, 21; Ro 1:7; 5:1; 15:33; Gal 5:22; Eph 2:14; Phil. 4:7, 9; Col 3:15; Ro 10:15)
 - b) *freedom from worry* (Gal 5:22).^{vi}
 - c) It is an inner repose and quietness, even in the face of adverse circumstances; it defies human understanding (cf. Phil. 4:7).^{vii}

3. The Biblical Study of the word “*peace*.”

- 1) The Source of *peace* - God
- 2) The Giver of *peace* – God and Christ
 - a) John 14: ²⁷ *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.*^{viii}
 - b) John 16: ³³ *“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”*^{ix}
- 3) The Usage of the word *peace* – it is used forty times as a noun in the nominative case in the Greek.
 - a) Greetings
 - a) Matthew 10:13
 - b) Luke 10:5,6
 - c) Luke 19:38
 - d) Luke 24:36
 - e) John 20:19, 21,26
 - f) Romans 1:7
 - g) 1 Corinthians 1:3
 - h) 2 Corinthians 1:2
 - i) Galatians 1:3
 - j) Ephesians 1:2
 - k) Philippians 1:2
 - l) Colossians 1:2
 - m) 1 Thessalonians 1:1
 - n) 2 Thessalonians 1:2
 - o) 1 Timothy 1:2
 - p) 2 Timothy 1:2
 - q) Titus 1:4
 - r) Philemon 3
 - s) 1 Peter 1:2
 - t) 2 Peter 1:2
 - u) 2 John 3
 - v) Jude 2
 - w) Revelation 1:4
 - b) Salutations
 - a) Ephesians 6:23

- b) 1 Peter 5:14
- c) 3 John 15
- d) Ephesians 6:23

Illustration:

Applications:

1. Let us rejoice in the peace that Jesus has given to us in a world of uncertainties.
2. It is an inner repose and quietness, even in the face of adverse circumstances; it defies human understanding (cf. Phil. 4:7).^x
3. Praise the Lord!

Transitional Sentence: Now that we know the meaning of *peace* let us now understand that ■■■

2. Peace Needs to Be Applied:

A. Family Relationships - In the Home

1. Looking constantly after the interests of one another in the family is a big step towards *peace* in the family.

1) Abraham Gen. 13: ⁸ *So Abram said to Lot, "Let's not have any quarreling between you and me, or between your herdsmen and mine, for we are brothers. ⁹ Is not the whole land before you? Let's part company. If you go to the left, I'll go to the right; if you go to the right, I'll go to the left."* ^{xi}

2) It was the joy and love that Abraham had for Lot that enabled him not to think of his interests but the interests of Lot! Sounds familiar, doesn't it? Philippians 2: *If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ² then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. ³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. ⁴ Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.* ^{xii}

2. Looking constantly God ward and Christ ward results in *personal peace*. Isaiah 26:3 *You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you.* ^{xiii} Note 2Co 13: ¹¹ *Finally, brothers, good-by. Aim for perfection, listen to my appeal, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.* ^{xiv}

3. Looking constantly for the things which make for. Ro 14: ¹⁹ *Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.* ^{xv}

B. Family Relationships - In The Church

1. 1 Thessalonians 5: ¹² *Now we ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you.* ¹³ *Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other.* ^{xvi}

2. James 3: ¹⁷ *But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.* ¹⁸ *Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.* ^{xvii}

C. Professional Relationships - Outside the home

1. Romans 12: ¹⁸ *If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.* ^{xviii}

2. Hebrews 12: ¹⁴ *Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord* ^{xix}

3. 1 Peter 3: ⁸ *Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble.* ⁹ *Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.* ¹⁰ *For, "Whoever would love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from deceitful speech.* ¹¹ *He must turn from evil and do good; he must seek peace and pursue it.* ¹² *For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."* ^{xx}

D. Added Insights

1. Love. Zech 8: 19 *This is what the Lord Almighty says: "The fasts of the fourth, fifth, seventh and tenth months will become joyful and glad occasions and happy festivals for Judah. Therefore love truth and peace."*

2. Seek. Ps 34:14 *Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.* ; 1Pe 3: 11 *He must turn from evil and do good; he must seek peace and pursue it.*

3. Follow. 2Ti 2: 22 *Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.*

4. Follow the things which make for. Ro 14: 19 *Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.*

5. Live in. 2Co 13:11 *Finally, brothers, good-bye. Aim for perfection, listen to my appeal, be of one mind, and live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.*

6. Have peace with each other. Mark 9: 50 *"Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with each other."* 1Th 5: 13 *Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other.*

7. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Heb 12: 14 *Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.*

Illustration:

Applications:

1. Peace has a positive effect in our minds and in everything that we do!
2. Peace can be ours as we helplessly depend upon the Holy Spirit and assimilate the Word of God and pray fervently!

Transitional Sentence: Now that we know the meaning of *peace* and realize that peace must be applied in our everyday lives, let us now understand ■■■

How Can “Peace” Be Appropriated in “MY” Life.

1. I must have a mind fixed upon God and Christ! Isaiah 26:3 *You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you.*^{xxi}
2. I must have a love for the Word of God! Psalms 119: ¹⁶⁵ *Great peace have they who love your law, and nothing can make them stumble.*^{xxii}
3. I must do the works of righteousness! Isaiah 32:¹⁷ *The fruit of righteousness will be peace; the effect of righteousness will be quietness and confidence forever.*
4. I must be spiritually minded! Romans 8: ⁶ *The mind of sinful man^e is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace;*^{xxiii}

^a Or *contemplate*

ⁱ *The Holy Bible : New International Version.* electronic ed. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984, S. 2 Co 3:18

ⁱⁱ *The Holy Bible : New International Version.* electronic ed. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984, S. Ga 5:22-23

ⁱⁱⁱ Heiser, Michael S.: *Glossary of Morpho-Syntactic Database Terminology.* Logos Bible Software, 2005; 2005, nominative

^{iv} Heiser, Michael S.: *Glossary of Morpho-Syntactic Database Terminology.* Logos Bible Software, 2005; 2005, noun

^v [Strong, James: *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible : Showing Every Word of the Text of the Common English Version of the Canonical Books, and Every Occurrence of Each Word in Regular Order.* electronic ed. Ontario : Woodside Bible Fellowship., 1996]

^{vi} Swanson, James: *Dictionary of Biblical Languages With Semantic Domains : Greek (New Testament)*. electronic ed. Oak Harbor : Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997^{vi}

cf. *confer*, compare

^{vii} Walvoord, John F. ; Zuck, Roy B. ; Dallas Theological Seminary: *The Bible Knowledge Commentary : An Exposition of the Scriptures*. Wheaton, IL : Victor Books, 1983-c1985, S. 2:608

^{viii} *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. electronic ed. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984, S. Jn 14:27

^{ix} *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. electronic ed. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984, S. Jn 16:33

cf. *confer*, compare

^x Walvoord, John F. ; Zuck, Roy B. ; Dallas Theological Seminary: *The Bible Knowledge Commentary : An Exposition of the Scriptures*. Wheaton, IL : Victor Books, 1983-c1985, S. 2:608

^{xi} *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. electronic ed. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984, S. Ge 13:8-9

^{xii} *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. electronic ed. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984, S. Php 2:1-4

^{xiii} *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. electronic ed. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984, S. Is 26:3

^{xiv} *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. electronic ed. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984, S. 2 Co 13:11

^{xv} *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. electronic ed. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984, S. Ro 14:19

^{xvi} *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. electronic ed. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984, S. 1 Th 5:12-13

^{xvii} *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. electronic ed. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984, S. Jas 3:17-18

^{xviii} *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. electronic ed. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984, S. Ro 12:18

^{xix} *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. electronic ed. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984, S. Heb 12:14

^a Psalm 34:12-16

^{xx} *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. electronic ed. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984, S. 1 Pe 3:8-12

^{xxi} *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. electronic ed. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984, S. Is 26:3

^{xxii} *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. electronic ed. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984, S. Ps 119:165

^c Or *mind set on the flesh*

^{xxiii} *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. electronic ed. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984, S. Ro 8:6